

Remarks

Claims 1, 4, 7 to 9 and 11 are amended. Claims 1 to 12 are pending in this application of which only claims 1 and 4 are in independent form.

Claim 4 was objected to only as being dependent from a rejected base claim. Accordingly, claim 4 is amended to place the same in independent form and to incorporate all the features and limitations of claims 1 to 3 from which it had previously depended so that claim 4 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 5 to 12 are all dependent from claim 4 so that these claims too should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 had been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Pears. However, claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate therein all the features and limitations of claim 6. The features of claim 6 relate to the arrangement of a radial opening formed in one of the first tie rods in the region of the valve plate. Claim 6 includes the further feature and limitation of a venting line running along the interior of the support unit and connected to this radial opening. This is set forth in claim 1, as amended herein, with the clause:

"...a venting line running along the interior of said support unit and connected to said radial opening;"

The above features and limitations are nowhere suggested in Pears and should now permit claim 1 to patentably distinguish the applicants' invention over this reference so that this claim too should now be allowable. Claims 2 and 3 are dependent from

claim 1 so that they too should now be allowable.

The application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Ottesen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Ottesen" clearly distinguishable.

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